



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

MEMORANDUM

July 14, 2017

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: July 18, 2017 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on **July 18, 2017 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room A (First Floor) at 7:00 pm.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site.
<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810

e:aacJuly(aac17)



Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda July 18, 2017

1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the May 16, 2017 AAC meeting minutes. There was no meeting in June.
3. The MSCD District Manager Position and follow up from the interviews.
4. The OAG is monitoring the County Council agenda for ZTA 16-02 regarding AR Zone-TDR requirements for Dwellings accessory to farming like Farm Tenant Dwellings. We are still waiting to see if the ZTA will be assigned a new number and start the public process over.
5. Please see the 2017 Farm Tour and Harvest Sale Brochures for July 22 & 23, 2017.
6. **Bill 23-17 Animal Control-Performance Animal-Violations-**
http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=21223 Press Release
Public hearing Draft
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2017/Packets/20170718_6.pdf This Bill was introduced on June 27, 2017 to address complaints and concerns of animal cruelty during circus events in the County and the public hearing is July 18, 2017 at 1:30 pm. The Bill currently provides an exemption for domestic cats, dogs, cattle, swine sheep, goats, horses, donkeys and mules. A Press Release for the Bill 23-17 suggested the Bill 23-17 should provide an exemption for the City of Gaithersburg where the County Agricultural Center is located. The OAG asked Extension Educator-David Gordon to review the bill and recommend if additional domestic animals need to be added to the exemption. David recommended all the animals that are listed in the 2017 County Agricultural Fair catalog. The MC Farm Bureau has drafted a letter to the County Council for the July 18, 2017 public hearing a 1:30 pm. (Please see the attached letter from the Montgomery County Farm Bureau.)
7. The County Department of General Services has asked the OAG for a list of materials that farmers frequently salvage from miscellaneous sites that could be used to help with their farming operations. The DGS will cross reference the list and schedule an on-site visit for the Site 2 property in White Oak (Former WSSC Sludge Composting Facility). There are several large steel buildings that could be disassembled and reassembled into smaller agricultural buildings on farms.
8. There is a growing concern from the MCA and SCA questioning how the County Department of Permitting Services has approved applications for Agricultural Tourism events (Farm Weddings) on certain farms in the Agricultural Reserve. The question surrounds how these land uses have been approved based who owns the properties and whether the owners are the farmers engaged in farming. In determining whether a property and the use is allowed as part of Farming, the DPS evaluates the property regardless of who owns it. A property that is agriculturally assessed and agriculturally zoned is legally considered a farm by the DPS. There is a meeting scheduled with Executive staff on July 21, 2017 to discuss this growing concern of the MCA and SCA. A response is pending and it will reference the MNCPPC study on Agritourism that the County Council approved as part of the FY18 Operating Budget in the amount of \$50,000. Executive staff will participate in the working group assigned as part of the Agritourism study. Stay Tuned!

9. The Council President Roger Berliner introduced a resolution on Tuesday asking the County Council to formally take a stand opposing a new Potomac River bridge crossing. The proposed project would include extending Route 28 in Virginia to the portion of the Intercounty Connector (ICC) that is in Montgomery County. Council President Berliner's memo went on to state: "Montgomery County has long opposed another Potomac River bridge crossing from Northern Virginia to Montgomery County because of the severe negative impacts such a project would have on our environment, our Agricultural Reserve, established residential neighborhoods and for promoting sprawl." Stay Tuned!
10. The MCFB sponsored a Meet your farmer event for the 14th Legislative District at Waredaca on June 20, 2017. Senator Craig Zucker and Delegates Luedtke, Kaiser, and Queen all attended along with 35 farmers/residents. Everyone that attended felt it was a good meeting and information sharing opportunity. The MCFB is working to schedule a similar event for the 15 Legislative District. Stay tuned!
11. Status of the New Appointments to the AAC.
12. Update on the Sugarland Road Broadband project-(See Attachment)
13. Next Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting September 19, 2017. No AAC meeting on August 15, 2017 due to County Agricultural Fair Week.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery Soil Conservation Bd of Supervisors-July 14, 2017 @ 9:00am

Agricultural Advisory Committee-Tuesday July 18, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale-July 22 & 23, 2017

Council Proclamation-Nat. Farmers Market wk-July 25, 2017 @ 9:30 pm

Agricultural Marketing Specialists-July 31, 2017-Southern Maryland

10th Annual Buy Local Challenge & Celebration July 31, 2017

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Bd of Directors-August 1, 2017 @7:00pm

COG Regional Agricultural Work Group-August 10, 2017-Montgomery County

Montgomery Soil Conservation Bd of Supervisors-August 11, 2017 @ 9:00am

MC Agricultural Fair Begins-August 11, 2017

Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-Monday August 14, 2017